REMARKS

By this amendment, the specification has been editorially amended and claims 1-6 and 8-23 have been amended. Currently claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

The Examiner stated that the drawings were objected to because they include the following reference character not mentioned in the description: Figure 9 element (ST 185). By this amendment, step ST185 has been included in the specification on page 17. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The disclosure was objected to because of the following informalities: page 1, paragraph 3, line 5, "resistors" should read "registers". Page 8, paragraph 3, line 4 "sub-memory (11)" should read "sub-memory (15)". Page 9, paragraph 1, line 1, "sub-memory (11)" should read "sub-memory (15). By this amendment, these changes have been made and it is respectfully requested that this objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 and 10-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Garfinkle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,017,157). Also, claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Garfinkle et al. as applied to claim 6 above, and further in

view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,816,864). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks below.

The present invention relates to an image data administration system and method. In this device, the data of each image is associated with a particular keyword selected by a customer and then the image data and the keyword are stored in an image data administration apparatus. The keywords are determined in association with the subject in the image or picture for the image data, such as a name of a person in the image. Then, the customer may access the image data administration apparatus and search for the image data associated with a particular keyword. The image data administration apparatus selects image data associated with the designated keyword and makes index image data to be displayed or printed in the form of thumbnail images of the selected images. Accordingly, the user can easily pick us a desired series of pictures relating to a particular subject or object from the stored image data.

The independent claims have all been amended to include these related features. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite "an image information memory for memorizing a keyword associated

with and transmitted with each image data" and "an image data selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer is received".

Independent claim 6 has been amended to recite "an image information memory for memorizing a keyword associated with and transmitted with each image data;

a first image data selector for selecting a first set of image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword designated by and transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer is received;

a first index image data processor for forming a first index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the first set of image data are arranged in a predetermined order and for outputting the first index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer via the first data communication unit;

a second image data selector for selecting from the image data at least one secondary image data having the specific keyword in accordance with a selection data transmitted from the terminal

equipment of the customer; and

a second index image data processor for renewing the first index image data to incorporate the secondary selected image data in accordance with the selection by the customer and for outputting renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer".

Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite "memorizing a keyword associated with and transmitted with each image data in a specific folder in an image information memory of the image data administration apparatus" and "selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword is transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer".

Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite "memorizing the data of the keyword in a specific folder in an image information memory", "receiving an instruction designating a specific keyword and transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer" and "selecting image data associated with the specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory".

Independent claim 20 has been amended to recite "receiving image data and a data of a keyword associated with each image data

which are transmitted from a terminal equipment of a customer via a network;

memorizing the image data in a specific folder in an image data memory corresponding to a customer's ID attached with each image data;

memorizing the the data of the keyword a specific folder in an image information memory;

receiving an instruction designating a specific keyword from the terminal equipment of the customer;

selecting image data associated with the specific keyword in the image data memorized in the image data memory".

These features as well as the other aspects of the independent claims are not shown or suggested by the prior art of record.

Garfinkle discloses a method of processing digital image and distributing visual prints produces from the digital image. According to Garfinkle, digital image data taken by scanning a photographic film or by digital camera are uploaded to an image server to be stored therein along with associated information including unique access code, a name, an e-mail address, store location, scanning location, current date and other desired information. The access code is associated with each roll of film.

(see lines 1-2 in column 5 of Garfinkle). A photographer can access the image server to download an image, or order a visual print or e-mail the image data. The image server is arranged to provide thumbnail image data to the photographer. Further, the method of Garfinkle can provide index print.

Thus, while there are many similarities with the system and method disclosed in Garfinkle and the present invention, there are also significant differences. Specifically, the access code of Garfinkle is associated with each film roll, and the thumbnail is produced for each film roll. Generally speaking, a variety of pictures are included in a roll of film that is photographed by a non-professional (ordinary person) photographer. Thus, it is very difficult and time consuming for those people to reach the various desired pictures scattered in many film rolls when they must access image data in a film roll-by-film roll manner.

According to the present invention as defined by amended independent claims, each image data is associated with a particular keyword selected by a customer and image data and the keywords are stored in an image data administration apparatus. Then, the customer may access the image data administration apparatus designating image data by searching for a particular keyword. The

image data administration apparatus selects image data associated with the designated keyword and makes index image data to displayed or printed in the form of thumbnail images of the selected images. Accordingly, the user can easily pick us a desired series of pictures relating to a particular subject or object, from stored image data. These aspects of the present invention are not disclosed in Garfinkle and the other cited references.

Tanaka et al. do not make up for the deficiencies in Garfinkle. Tanaka et al. relate to a programmable copy apparatus and do not disclose associating any keyword relative to the image.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-23 are patentable over Garfinkle, Tanaka et al. and the other prior art of record.

In addition, according to dependent claims 3, 10 and 14, each image data is associated with a date on which the photograph is taken. Usually, photographic pictures are taken for the memory and closely associated with that date. Thus, in some situations it is useful when the desired image data is retrieved with reference to date that the picture was taken. Garfinkle only refers to current date and not the date when the picture was taken (see col. 4, line 63). Accordingly, the features of claims 3, 10 and 14 are also

patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the claim amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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